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**PATENT**  
Attorney Docket No. 04B1727

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ron M. Bean

Group Art Unit No. 3712

**OFFICIAL**

Serial No.: 10/709,975

Examiner: Unknown at present

Filed: June 10, 2004

For: APPARATUS WITH BELLOWS FOR CALLING GAME

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August 23, 2004

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to the first Office action, please amend this application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** are shown beginning on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of the claims that begins on page 5 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.

Please substitute the following paragraphs 0019, 0020 and 0022 for the ones originally submitted:

[0019] Now referring to the drawings, wherein like numerals refer to like matter throughout, and more particularly to Figure 1, there is shown an apparatus of the prior art, generally designated 100, which includes a bellows 102 which may be any flexible cap or cover which is easily depressed but sufficiently resilient to return to an earlier shape when pressure is no longer being applied. Also shown is a call central section or housing 104, which is a container capable of receiving bellows 102 and an optional throat section 106. Call central section 104 is shown having a cutaway section 110, which reveals a reed/pitch control assembly 112, therein. An optional sound chamber 108 is also shown. Optional throat section 106 may be made of the same material as call central section 104, which could be any suitable material with sufficient rigidity and strength to accomplish the function of receiving bellows 102 and retaining reed/pitch control assembly 112. Material such as plastic, composite materials, wood or metal and others all could be used. Optional sound chamber 108 can be of any suitable material, but a flexible and pliable material, such as rubber or soft plastic, similar to material used for the bellows 102, may be preferred.

[0020] Now referring to Figure 2, there is shown a detailed view of portions of the present invention, including call central section 104 after bellows 102 has been removed. Shown disposed inside of call central section 104 is reed/pitch control assembly 112, which includes an air tube or sounding board 202 and a reed 204. Air tube 202 provides a passage or main air channel for air to pass therethrough and further provides structural support for reed/pitch control assembly 112. Reed 204 is a thin planar member which vibrates, producing sound when air passes over it. The

combination of air tubes and reeds is a well-known means to provide sound in game calls. A reed plunger or pressure point structure 210 is also shown having a top contact end 212 for cooperation with and activation by bellows 102 when bellows 102 is fully or near fully depressed. Reed plunger 210 may be a single piece of thin metal, such as copper or brass or any other suitable material which has sufficient rigidity to transfer force from the bellows 102, to affect the vibration parameters of reed 204 by contacting reed 204 at various points thereon. Reed plunger 210 may have one or more reed contacting detents disposed thereon. First reed contacting detent 214 and second reed contacting detent 216 are shown. It should be understood that various numbers of detents may be used. It may be preferable that no detents, or only a single detent, be used if the call is designed as an elk call. However, if the call is designed as a turkey call or other type of call, then multiple detents may be preferred. Reed plunger 210 has an air tube coupling section 218 which couples to air tube 202.

[0022] Now referring to Figure 3, there is shown a partially exploded view of the call of the present invention which includes a bellows grasping member 302, which has a bellows grasping rim 304, which may be inserted inside bellows 102 and cooperate with a bellows bottom rim 306 formed around the periphery of bellows 102. Bellows grasping member or retainer plate 302 has an air passage hole 308 therein for permitting air from inside bellows 102 to flow to and through air tube 202. When the bellows grasping member 302 is pulled into contact with central body rim 240 by insertion of first, second, third and fourth screws 422, 424, 426 and 428, respectively into first, second, third, and fourth screw sleeves 222, 224, 226, and 228, respectively, and coupling with first, second, third, and fourth screw grasping members 322, 324,

326 and 328 respectively, preferably an air-tight seal forms between bellows 102 and call central section 104. Bellows grasping member 302 also assists in limiting the maximum stroke of the bellows 102 as it is compressed during call operation, and thereby assists in limiting the range of deflections of reed plunger 210 which are permissible. The placement of the bottom 307 of bellows grasping member 302 and its air passage hole 308 with the respect to the top of the bellows can be varied to alter the stroke characteristic of the bellows 102.